Impact of Euro norms on motor vehicles industry

944 PROF. (SHRIMATI) BHARATI RAY: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of norms specified in Euro-I, Euro-II, Euro-III and Euro-IV;

(b) the present situation in India to match the Euro norms;

(c) whether the domestic motor vehicles industry would be seriously affected or closed down for adhering to the said norms; and

(d) what would be the additional investment for upgrading refineries to produce Euro-III auto fuels (petrol and diesel) by 2005?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) and (b) Euro-I, Euro-II, Euro-III and Euro-IV are based on progressive advancement of automobile technology and commensurate improved quality of fuel to comply prescribed set standards including emission norms. The European Union proposes to implement Euro-IV norms from the year 2005 for which auto fuel specification and Engine technologies are yet to be finalised and evaluated. In Delhi, Mumbai, Chennai and Kolkata emission norms for 4 wheeled automobiles known as Bharat Stage-II norms akin to Euro-II norms were made effective. In India, in the case of 2 and 3 wheelers, specific norms, which are more stringent than in Europe are followed.

(c) The domestic motor vehicles industry has taken steps to adhere to Euro norms as and when applicable.

(d) An additional amount of around Rs. 18,000 crore would be required to produce Euro-III auto fuels (petrol and diesel) by 2005.

Destruction of BT cotton crops

945 SHRIMATI GURCHARAN KAUR: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any standing cotton corps raised through the pest-resistent genetically modified BT cotten seeds have been destroyed in any State;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the loss thereby; and

(c) what steps Government proposed to take to protect the interests of poor farmers?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) to (c) No, Sir. Navbharat Seeds Pvt. Ltd, Ahmedabad has marketed seeds of a transgenic BT Cotton variety (Navbharat 151) in Gujarat without any biosafety assessment and the mandatory approval of Genetic Engineering Approval Committee (GEAC), thereby violating the provisions of 1989 Rules and the Environment Protection Act 1986. The GEAC has directed the Gujarat State Biotechnology Coordination Committee to take following actions so that the farmers are not adversely affected:

- procure the cotton bolls of Navbharat 151 crop from the farmers at the appropriate support price;
- separate the lint and seed;
- destroy the seed and store the lint in safe custody till further orders from GEAC;

'estruction of crop residue by uprooting and burning and ,anitation of fields.

Forest ranges in Chilka Wildlife Division

946. SHRI RAMACHANDRA KHUNTIA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of forest ranges which the Chilka Wildlife Division in Orissa has been divided into, giving the details of area of each; and

(b) the figures of waterfowl/birds in each of these range areas, for each of the last five years, till date?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) As reported by the State Government the Chilka